

1964

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

14437

educators in fields totally unrelated to their official duties.

I am certain that the overwhelming majority of the postmasters of the United States have no desire to become commissars for the Postmaster General.

REPUBLICANS HIDING BEHIND "OR" ON VIETNAM

(Mr. BENNETT of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENNETT of Florida. Mr. Speaker, now, right now is the time for each major Republican candidate for President to speak out on what he proposes for Vietnam. Our country has been baraged with statements that we should "get in or get out" of Vietnam. The President's policy of trying to assist the local government to victory, maintaining the war as basically their war, has been derided as a foolish policy. How many times have we read that first this Republican candidate and then that one says, "It is time to get in or get out."

Well, now is the time for these presidential candidates to speak out as they offer themselves for the Republican nomination. Which do they recommend? Do they recommend that we get in or that we get out? The American people are entitled to know. A large segment of the American people, the Republican Party will choose one of them in the next few weeks as their standard bearer. It is therefore their duty to state their decision instead of taking the cowardly position of hiding behind that little word "or."

If they think we should get in with American troops and make the war our war in every respect, should not they have the courage to do so? If so, how many divisions do they recommend be sent and when? Or, if they feel that we should get out, would not it be better to say so now so the people would know what the choice is between the candidates?

Personally, I have always felt that an effort should be made to eliminate partisanship in international affairs, and I am sorry that the Republican candidates have injected politics into the very serious situation in Vietnam, but they have done so and have actually made it their chief campaign vehicle so far. Since they have done so and since they repeatedly say "get in or get out," the time has now come for them to say which they prefer so the American people will have a clear choice.

It is obvious from things that have been said by leaders in the administration that the policy of the present administration is to win in Vietnam but to attempt first to do it by assisting the local government rather than making the war our war. If that fails every indication is that our country will go in with American troops and make the war our war in every respect. Personally, as a Member of Congress who has been a member of the House Armed Services Committee for many years, I think the time being it makes sense to pursue the current policy, but the sole purpose of my

speech today is to challenge the candidates for the presidential nomination in the Republican Party and ask them to cease hiding behind that little word "or" and say precisely what they mean.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY—THE KEYSTONE OF FREEDOM

(Mr. RIEHLMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RIEHLMAN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow I will welcome to the Capital two youngsters from Syracuse, N.Y., who won first prizes in a teen-theme essay contest which I recently sponsored.

They are Miss Karen E. Corso and Mr. C. Michael Haskins who wrote on the subject of "Individual Responsibility—The Keystone of Freedom."

Sponsoring this contest is one of the outstanding privileges I have had in public life. I have been provided a rare insight into the thinking of our youngsters today, not only through the winning essay but from the more than 500 other submitted.

I am looking forward to showing these two youngsters around their Capitol tomorrow and I hope they will receive as much inspiration from the tour as I did from their essays.

I am inserting the two essays at this point. They speak eloquently for the writers:

MR. HASKINS' ESSAY

To me, individual responsibility means the duty of each and every one of us to accept our own responsibility for good citizenship and good government. It means that we must keep ourselves well informed on the issues of the day and those of the not too distant past, for often today's issues are only the result of yesterday's unsolved or partly solved problems. This knowledge will help us form valid, intelligent opinions, and a better understanding of the issues involved. We must, if we think it necessary, make our elected representatives aware of our opinions about important legislation. We must never adopt the attitude of "let someone else do it."

We must be very careful not to deny any of our fellow citizens, no matter what their race, creed, or color, the same rights and privileges of citizenship which we expect for ourselves. No injustice, however slight, whether or not we are directly affected, should be beneath our notice.

We should feel free to criticize our Government and our legislative processes but it must be constructive, never criticism for its own sake. We have all heard presumably loyal citizens berating their Government in a way that would bring joy to the Kremlin. Obviously, we should be law-abiding citizens for good laws are the very foundation of our society. If we do not approve of certain laws we should seek to have them changed by legal means, not by defiance.

If we personally do nothing to change things we believe are wrong, if we take no part in electing the people who represent us, if we remain indifferent about our duties as citizens and no exercise our right to vote, we are disfranchising ourselves and forsaking the greatest opportunities American democracy can offer.

I believe it is the individual responsibility of every one of us to actively participate in local, State, and national affairs for only by doing so are we performing our full duty as citizens. It is not enough to be a citizen; we should all aspire to political careers by any means; it does mean that we should,

for example, attend meetings and lectures which can help us to keep well informed.

I also feel very strongly that it is our individual responsibility to form our own opinions based on clear, informed thinking. We are surrounded by columnists and commentators, many of them well informed though too often biased, who endeavor to mold our opinions. Certainly we should evaluate their views but by all means let our opinions be our own. We must learn to think for ourselves.

Freedom is our birthright but we cannot expect to simply take it for granted without putting forth our best efforts to retain it. Millions have given their lives in the fight for freedom. The least we can do is to dedicate ourselves to preserving what they have won. That, I think, is our greatest individual responsibility. Let's not shirk it.

Miss Corso's Essay

Individual responsibility is the cornerstone of liberty and the keystone of our Nation's freedom. Responsibility is accepted by an individual in varying degrees—depending on his attitude. Accepting responsibility is the badge of leadership.

Our present society demands education and knowledge that must start early in life. Initiative is rewarded. In school, the pupil learns independent thinking and self-determination. He talks responsibility; he thinks responsibility. He does not really know responsibility—but he feels it.

Responsibility is loyalty to people, church, and State. It is an attitude. It is a respect for your neighbor's rights—and it is self-respect. It is an awe of the power of God. It is studying and putting forth one's best efforts. Responsibility is a willingness to work.

Responsibility is the urge to accomplish and to reach an objective. It is accepting challenge. It defines morality and doing what is right. It is setting example by your deeds. Responsibility whets the imagination.

Responsibility is a fierce defense of liberty and freedom. It is pride in heritage and in our history. Responsibility is simply but eloquently expressed by Lincoln that "this Nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

Preparation for responsibility must be stepped up to strengthen our youth on a person-by-person basis. Instead of a lot of headshaking, our parents and educators need to take stock of themselves. They need responsibility of their own to instill inspiration and responsibility in this Nation's children. There is a profound responsibility.

Let us share a variety of viewpoints and strive with impatience to improve ourselves.

Let us restore God to his rightful place in the constitution of our great Nation.

Let us abolish suspicion, discrimination and intolerance; let us build character in person and in Nation. Let this be our responsibility.

America has been blessed with abundance and generosity to share. In the barren troubled world in which man lives, our country stands out as an oasis—and a symbol.

America was spawned in a desire for freedom and the right of self-government. Americans are born as freemen with a free will. Our leaders are chosen to accept responsibilities and make our Nation's decisions. This defines a free government. Let us always preserve it and may God always bless our land.

The young people of today will be measured as the men of tomorrow. The roots of our Nation run deeply imbedded in liberty and we have defended it with all of our resources. We are responsible for the destiny of our Nation in a complex tomorrow. Our new citizens will go on trial—the

eyes of the world will be the jury—and history will record the verdict.

ONLY HALF OF IMPORTED HARVEST CREW AT WORK

(Mr. TALCOTT (at the request of Mr. HARVEY of Michigan) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. TALCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am trying to keep my colleagues and the American consumer, taxpayer, and tax user informed about the problem of obtaining adequate farm labor to harvest crops which supply the food we eat.

To replace the bracero program, farmers and labor organizations are desperately trying every suggestion proposed.

Someone suggested to the California farmers that they go to the Deep South to recruit farm labor. The Garin Co., a large grower, did just this. After 30 days, the Salinas Californian newspaper made the following objective report in the May 29, 1964, issue:

Half of the crew of Mississippi Negroes imported a month ago by the Garin Co. to harvest Salinas Valley lettuce isn't on the job any more.

Of the 46 men recruited by the company in the Mississippi delta towns of Meridian, Natchez, Jackson, and Hazelhurst, just 22 went to work this morning.

There are now not enough Mississippians with the company to form an efficient lettuce harvesting crew. Those remaining were integrated Monday with two bracero crews—of the sort they and other American domestic workers are supposed to replace after December 31, when the Mexican national program expires.

WHAT HAPPENED?

What happened to the members of the experimental crew who gave up the labor of lettuce harvesting?

Garin Co. records show this: One man was sent back sick to Mississippi; four reportedly got homesick and returned to Mississippi of their own volition, and four were fired because they didn't work much. No one knows just exactly what's become of the remaining 14, although some of them are said to have found other jobs in the Salinas area that either pay more than \$1.05 an hour, or are easier, or both.

Aggregate man-hours of work available from the Mississippians from April 28 through May 21 was 6,721. Man-hours absent total was 1,097. Nevertheless, John P. McCarthy, of the Garin Co., who helped recruit the experimental crew, says "we haven't given up on it yet."

McCarthy told the Californian that "the fellows remaining on the crew seem to be working very well" and that "competition between them and the braceros" has stepped up their productiveness. Besides, the bracero crews are experienced and working on a piece rate, which brings the individual worker substantially more than \$1.05 an hour. (The all-Negro crew "made" the piece rate and earnings over and above the hourly guarantee—just once on the basis of its production.)

Three of the Mississippians—Roosevelt Howard and William Smith, of Natchez, and James Skinner, of Jackson—haven't missed an hour of work. A fourth man who was in the perfect attendance category, Charlie Smith, of Meridian, quit work this morning.

McCarthy says that "we were under the impression that all of the men were experienced field hands" when they were recruited. This didn't happen. In the case of most of the 22 men remaining are bona fide agricultural workers.

Since the Mississippians were integrated with the two bracero crews, there have been very few absences from work among them, McCarthy says. He believes that they may have shaken down into a stable work force. But the company—while it is considering worker recruitment from Texas—isn't rushing back to Mississippi for more men. "We'll take a long, close look at the situation before we decide to recruit (there) any more," McCarthy says.

Absenteeism among the Mississippi crew began on May 5 and reached a high point on May 21, when just 11 men reported for work.

NOT CUTTING, PACKING

Garin field foreman Joe Brooks said this morning that the Mississippians are being used as carton spray and pad men, wind rowers and loaders in the fields. The cutting and packing of lettuce is generally being done by braceros, of which the company now has 271 out of a total work force of 325.

The Garin Co. screened some 159 workers in Mississippi before selecting the 46 men it bussed to California at a cost of \$2,874.40. A bonus arrangement between the company and the new men is that each one of the workers who stays on the job for 3 months will get a free bus trip back home. The company is deducting \$5 a week from the checks of the men to reimburse it for transportation costs. A charge of \$1.75 a day is assessed each man for room and board at the company's McFadden road camp, where the Mississippians are housed with 103 braceros.

McCarthy conceded that the experimental crew members have been averaging less than \$50 a week take-home pay thus far. But with the Valley's heavy lettuce harvesting now getting underway, he says that they'll be earning more than \$50 a week.

Mr. Speaker, the \$50 is a net figure—after deducting \$5 per week for return transportation and \$1.75 per day for board and room.

When the Mississippians first arrived at the labor camp, the Garin Co. was laying out special southern meals for them. Recently, however, the new men started getting the same food as the braceros. McCarthy says that they have balked at substituting tortillas for bread; so they're going to get bread from now on.

FAILURE OF GARIN FARM LABOR RECRUITMENT EXPERIMENT

(Mr. TALCOTT (at the request of Mr. HARVEY of Michigan) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. TALCOTT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I reported for the benefit of my colleagues who are concerned about the harvesting of fresh fruit and vegetable crops about the Garin Co. experiment in recruiting farm labor from faraway Mississippi.

A full report of the experiment cannot be given yet. The experiment is not concluded. A few of the workers which were recruited at great cost, careful planning and wide cooperation are still working. Most quit shortly after arrival in California. None could perform the stoop labor well. The company lost heavily. The State of California will be required to increase its welfare payments. Some union men will lose their jobs. The dislocated workers are disillusioned and fields.

A spokesman for the Council of Cali-

fornia Growers had the following to say to the Salinas Californian newspaper on May 29, 1964:

The questionable success of the Garin Co.'s experiment with imported field labor raises some disturbing questions.

The dwindling of Garin's crew of Mississippians by more than half in just a month at work in the Salinas Valley is symptomatic of "a potentially dangerous situation," Tom Ellick, of the council, said.

MAKES PEOPLE THINK

"This should at least make people think about the problems involved should agriculture find it necessary to go out of the State on a massive recruiting program to pockets of poverty," Ellick said in a telephone interview.

The Council of California Growers is the public relations arm of California agriculture.

Speaking of the Garin crew, Ellick said that "here are underprivileged people who have been thoroughly screened by the prospective employer and by representatives of the Federal Government and the agencies of two States. They signed up voluntarily to do farm labor under specific wages and specific conditions in a specified work agreement. Yet, after they had been in the Salinas Valley a matter of just 2 weeks, they began to follow what is now an almost historic migration from farm work to other types of work."

WELFARE PROBLEMS

Ellick said that the rapid movement of workers from rural work to job seeking in urban areas has historically meant skyrocketing welfare costs. "It seems to us that some real serious thought should be given to what's going to happen if agriculture has to recruit on a large scale out of the State."

Ellick said that the swift movement of the Mississippians out of California's farm labor market raises the question: "How many American workers will it take to replace the jobs now held by some 60,000 braceros at the peak of the harvest season?" He said he believes that it may take "three, four, five times as many people—and they won't go back where they came from, either."

FACTS OF LIFE

"The facts of life," Ellick said, "do not substantiate the contention of the AFL-CIO that California has enough willing, unemployed workers to do the job for agriculture. * * * It's about time the State administration and the department of employment and other powers that be found out what it would take to get the unemployed back on the rolls—and what wages they'd work at. "Agriculture has to know, and it has to know damn soon," he said. "We need some straight answers."

Mr. Speaker, no opponents of the bracero program has had anything to say about this experiment which failed.

GUANTANAMO NAVAL BASE: GUARDIAN OF PANAMA CANAL APPROACHES

(Mr. HARSHA (at the request of Mr. HARVEY of Michigan) was granted permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. HARSHA. Mr. Speaker, in many statements in the Congress concerning the problems of the Caribbean, especially those by my distinguished and scholarly colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. Flood], the importance of the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo, the security of the Western Hemisphere has been repeatedly emphasized.